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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 7, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 2 totaled an estimated 16.6 billion ton-miles, 6.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was primarily attributable to the impact of tne United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 315.9 billion ton-miles, 1.2 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 2 totaled 396,029 cars, 13.5 percent below 1980, but 2.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 27.2 percent in the East, 12.2 percent in tne South and 4.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 53,964 cars, or 46.8 percent. Sixteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended April 25 totaled 31,461 cars, down 2.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 55,778 trailers and/or containers, down 5.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 542,441 cars, 4.4 percent lower than last year, and 983,114 trailers and/or containers, down 4.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/2/81:

	Loadings in Week ended May 2, 1981	Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	23,319	D 577	2.4	D 284	1.2
Other farm products	3,968	D 629	13.7	I 382	10.7
Metallic ores	32,453	D 2,957	8.4	D 361	1.1
Coal	61,244	D 53,964	46.8	I 371	0.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,780	D 929	5.9	D 250	1.7
Nonmetallic minerals	14,967	D 1,765	10.5	D 12	0.1
Grain mill products	14,552	D 1,917	11.6	I 844	6.2
Food and kindred products	16,583	D 964	5.5	I 654	4.1
Primary forest products	19,455	D 429	2.2	D 554	2.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,207	I 1,565	18.1	I 784	8.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,762	D 1,136	5.2	I 479	2.4
Chemicals and allied products	28,789	D 1,363	4.5	I 226	0.8
Petroleum products	5,003	D 574	10.3	I 211	4.4
Stone, clay and glass products	15,248	D 468	3.0	I 300	2.0
Coke	6,980	I 1,481	26.9	I 766	12.3
Metals and products	19,370	I 741	4.0	I 1,127	6.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,406	I 3,335	19.5	I 1,381	7.3
Waste and scrap materials	13,836	D 692	4.8	I 684	5.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,066	D 213	1.9	I 968	9.6
All other carloads	42,834	D 468	1.1	I 2,918	7.3
LCL traffic	207	I 8	4.0	I 16	8.4
Total Cars Loaded	396,029	D 61,915	13.5	I 10,650	2.8
Corresponding week of 1980	457,944				

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	7,546,514	7,966,996	D	5.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
17 Weeks cumulative	299.3	301.9	D	0.9
Week ended May 2	16.6	17.8	D	6.5
18 Weeks cumulative	315.9	319.7	D	1.2

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